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FEBRUARY 4, 1959

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FROM: BONN - CORRECTED PAGES 1 AND 2

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1678, FEBRUARY 4, NOON

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1678, LONDON 392.

FOLLOWING FROM USCOB BERLIN DTD 03 FEB 59/2120Z:

SENT CINCUSAREUR, RPTD INFO CINCEUR, BONN.

REFERENCE NUMBER COB 200.

1. REFERENCES: COB 193, COB 194, USAREUR SX 1579, USAREUR SX 1580, USAREUR SX 1581, USBER 571 TO BONN, 186 TO USAREUR, 137 TO PARIS, COB 195, COB 196, COB 197.

2. ABOVE REFERENCES AND FOLLOWING CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY ARE FURNISHED FOR CONVENIENCE OF ALL CONCERNED FOR READY UNDERSTANDING SERIES OF EVENTS INVOLVING DETENTION OF US MILITARY CONVOY DISPATCHED FROM BERLIN ON 2 FEBRUARY 1959, AND PARTICULARLY TO FACILITATE PREPARATION OF ANY GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT PROTEST.

3. A ROUTINE CONVOY OF FOUR 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS WITH REAR ENDS OPEN AND MINUS REAR CANVAS CURTAINS, EACH CARRYING A 1/4 TON TRUCK CLEARED CHECKPOINT BRAVO AT 0945 HOURS, 2 FEBRUARY 1959, WITH FINAL DESTINATION MANNHEIM, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

4. CONVOY CLEARED NOWAWES SOVIET AUTOBAHN CHECKPOINT (VICINITY BERLIN) AT ABOUT 0955 HOURS. QUESTION OF INSPECTION OF VEHICLES NOT RPT NOT RAISED.

Correction made

by RM/R

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5. CONVOY ARRIVED MARIENBORN SOVIET CHECKPOINT (VICINITY HELMSTEDT) AT APPROXIMATELY 1230 HOURS. HERE SOVIET CAPTAIN ON DUTY DEMANDED RIGHT TO INSPECT VEHICLES FOR "UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS". WHAT HE APPARENTLY WANTED TO DO WAS CLIMB UP ON TRUCKS AND LOOK INTO THE BEDS OF THE TRUCKS WHICH HE WAS UNABLE TO SEE FROM THE GROUND.

6. NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CONVOY REFUSED PERMISSION TO SOVIETS TO INSPECT TRUCKS WHEREUPON CONVOY WAS NOT RPT NOT PERMITTED TO CONTINUE ITS TRAVEL TO WEST. NCO IN CHARGE WAS PERMITTED TO TRAVEL ON FOOT TO US CHECKPOINT WHERE HE REPORTED SITUATION AT 1305 HOURS. USCOB NOTIFIED.

7. AT ABOUT 1400 HOURS CAPTAIN JENNINGS, OFFICER IN CHARGE OF US CHECKPOINT PROCEEDED TO MARIENBORN WHERE HE WAS INFORMED THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES WANTED TO INSPECT US VEHICLES. THIS HE REFUSED AND REPORTED TO USCOB.

8. USAREUR NOTIFIED REGARDING SITUATION VIA "SCRAMBLER TELEPHONE" SGS USCOB TO ASSISTANT CHIEF CAD AT 1630 HOURS.

9. CAPTAIN JENNINGS INSTRUCTED TO:

A. ARRANGE MEETING WITH SOVIET COLONEL IN CHARGE MARIENBORN, AT 1700 HOURS.

B. PROTEST DETENTION AND

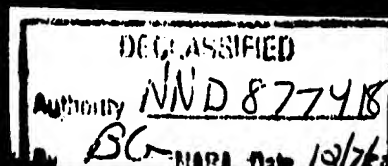
C. ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE ONWARD TRAVEL OF CONVOY.

10. TELEPHONE PROTEST MADE BY USCOB POLAD (BURNS TO MARKUSHIN) DELIVERED 1710 HOURS TO KARLSHORST.

11. CAPTAIN JENNINGS MET WITH COLONEL SAFRONOV AT 1700 HOURS. LATTER INSISTED ON INSPECTION, REFUSED TO ALLOW CONVOY TO CONTINUE, BUT STATED NO OBJECTION TO RETURNING CONVOY TO BERLIN.

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INSPECTION REFUSED, CONVOY REMAINED IN PLACE.

12. USAREUR NOTIFIED OF DEVELOPMENTS TO DATE VIA COB 193.
13. ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPPLY FOOD, BEDDING AND COMFORT MATERIALS TO PERSONNEL OF CONVOY CONFIRMED.
14. SOVIET POLADS: (MARKUSHIN TO BURNS) REPLY TO USCOB PROTEST RECEIVED 190 HOURS. CLAIMED CONVOY NOT BEING DETAINED BUT INCIDENT OCCURRED BECAUSE CONVOY WOULD NOT SUBMIT TO INSPECTION AS PER AGREEMENT WITH US. CONVOY ALLOWED TO RETURN TO BERLIN, IF DESIRED. REPORTED IN USBER REFERENCE CABLE.
15. USCOB DIRECTED POLAD (BURNS) TO MAKE FOLLOW-UP PROTEST IN PERSON TO SOVIET KOMMANDATURA. UNABLE TO MAKE CONTACT. EFFORT SUSPENDED 2230 HOURS.
16. AT 0700 HOURS, 3 FEBRUARY, USCOB THROUGH C/S USCOB CONCURRED IN PRESS RELEASE PROPOSED BY USAREUR FOR 0800 HOURS. LOCAL CONCURRENCE AND COORDINATION EFFECTED.
17. USCOB POLAD ARRANGED APPOINTMENT WITH SOVIET POLAD AT KARLSHORST AND MET WITH HIM 3 FEBRUARY. RESULTS NEGATIVE REPORTED BRIEFLY VIA COB 196 AND IN DETAIL VIA COB 199.
18. SITUATION REMAINS UNCHANGED AS OF 2000 HOURS, 3 FEBRUARY.
19. REGRADE CONFIDENTIAL 3 FEBRUARY 1962."

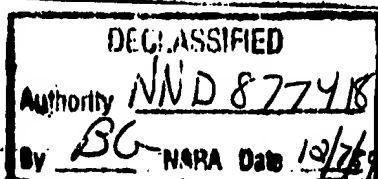
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